

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 6-8, 18 and 20-21 will have been canceled, without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 11, 12, 19 and 22 will have been amended to replace “reception situation” with ---at least one of a signal to noise ratio, a reception power and an E_b/N_0 ---. Also, claims 11, 19 and 23 will have been amended address the claim objections asserted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In the above-referenced Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6-8, 11-13 and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KOMATSU (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,882) in view of OKAZAKI (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,290). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, at least for the reasons stated below.

Independent claims 11 and 19 have been amended to more specifically recite that the reception situation estimator estimates at least one of a signal to noise ratio, a reception power and an E_b/N_0 (i.e., the ratio of energy per bit to spectral noise density) from the reception signal. The claims have likewise been amended to recite that the calculation length controller controls the calculation length according to at least one of the estimated signal to noise ratio, reception power and E_b/N_0 estimated by the reception situation estimator. *See, e.g.*, Specification, p.49, lines 17-22; p.56, lines 18-23.

Neither KOMATSU nor OKAZAKI, alone or in combination with one another, teaches or suggests estimating the signal to noise ratio, reception power or E_b/N_0 to control the calculation length. With respect to claim 11 (and claim 19), the Examiner relied on KOMATSU to teach a

reception situation estimator (Fig. 5, ref. nos. 28-30) that estimates a reception situation. More particularly, the Examiner asserted that the combination of a $1/n$ multiplication section 28, an angle/vector converting section 29 and a holding section 30, all of which are part of a frequency offset detection circuit 7, estimates a frequency component or angle/vector deviation. *See* col. 6, lines 44-55. However, estimation of the frequency component and the angle/vector deviation, used to identify frequency offset, does not teach or suggest estimation of a signal to noise ratio, a reception power and/or an E_b/N_o , as recited in the amended claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on any combination including the KOMATSU reference is respectfully requested.

The Examiner relied on OKAZAKI only to teach adaptively adjusting a correlation length of a known sequence. There appears to be no disclosure of estimating the signal to noise ratio, the reception power and/or the E_b/N_o of a received signal, or otherwise controlling the calculation length of a correlation calculation according to these estimates. Therefore, OKAZAKI does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference.

With regard to claims 12, 13, 22 and 23, Applicants assert that they are allowable at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 11 and 19, respectively, which Applicants submit have been shown to be allowable.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the previously asserted rejections set forth in the Official Action of August 20, 2004, together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

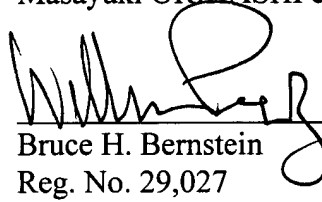
Any amendments to the claims in this Reply, which have not been specifically noted to

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overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto..

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Reply or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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